

## Appendix 6

### Smallpox Stage One Vaccination Questions and Answers:

*1. What is “Smallpox Stage One Vaccination?”*

Following the strategy indicated by the Centers of Disease Control, the Stage One of voluntary smallpox vaccinations will include public health response team members called upon to investigate a smallpox incident, and high risk health care workers including hospital emergency room staff. Stage Two of vaccinations will include additional health care workers and emergency first responders including EMS and ambulance workers. Stage Three of vaccinations will include the general public, but this will not occur until the first two stages have been completed, and the new vaccine has been licensed.

*2. Who will determine and select the people who will be vaccinated in Stage I of the Federal Smallpox Vaccination Program?*

Selection of those offered vaccination in Stage I will take place at the local and state level by hospital and public health personnel.

*3. Who will administer the actual vaccinations?*

Public health professionals will administer the vaccinations from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

*4. Who will determine which hospitals and medical facilities should have healthcare response teams?*

If a smallpox event occurs, KDHE realizes that many hospitals could potentially respond and care for those infected. Therefore, a number of hospitals should have healthcare response teams, taking into account population and capacity. It will be important for those healthcare workers to be protected from the disease.

*5. How many people do you think will be vaccinated in Kansas as a result of this Federal policy?*

The vaccine will be offered to approximately 4,000 people during Stage I.

*6. When will the first people in Kansas be vaccinated in Stage I?*

The decision to implement the smallpox vaccination program was made by the federal government. Kansas is responding quickly to the federal decision.

*7. How does Kansas plan to monitor and deal with smallpox vaccine security?*

KDHE will implement centralized vaccine storage and security protocols to ensure proper storage, transportation and protection of the vaccine.

*8. How will smallpox vaccination adverse events be handled?*

A great deal of concern has been raised about the side effects of the smallpox vaccine. These side effects are not very common, but can be severe. Therefore, people who receive the vaccine will be monitored closely for any possible adverse affects. Recognition and treatment of vaccination adverse affects is part of the training that will occur before the vaccine is distributed.

*9. What will Kansas do if there is a confirmed, serious adverse reaction, or death, from the vaccine?*

KDHE will monitor and evaluate each adverse event and will work with local physicians to ensure that people receive the best supportive medical care possible. However, an adverse event would not affect the need to vaccinate the healthcare response teams.

*10. How should the public weigh the risks vs. the benefits of the vaccine?*

Based on previous history with smallpox vaccination programs, about one in one million people may die from the vaccine. However, historically, about one in three people who contract the smallpox disease died.

*11. Why can't members of the public get smallpox vaccine right now?*

At this time, we know of no apparent urgent risk to the public and there is no known disease anywhere in the world. The risk to the public is being assessed at the federal level. The decision if and when to vaccinate the public likely will be determined by continuing that risk assessment.

*12. How great or real a threat is smallpox to Kansas?*

We don't know the threat to Kansas. However, since the events of September and October 2001, there is heightened concern that smallpox could be used as a weapon of bioterrorism. That's why we in Kansas, along with the federal government and other states, are taking precautions.

*13. Will smallpox vaccinations be mandatory?*

At this time, we have no expectations that the vaccinations will be mandatory. It is a choice to be made by individuals offered the vaccine.

*14. When was the last person vaccinated for smallpox?*

The national vaccination program ended in 1972.

*15. Who will train healthcare workers to administer the vaccine?*

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has started the process of training public and private healthcare workers to administer the vaccine.

*16. How long will the vaccination program continue?*

We just now are beginning the process. The program likely will continue as long as the concern about smallpox as a weapon of bioterrorism continues.

*17. During an outbreak of smallpox, will Kansas quarantine or isolate people who have the disease?*

Quarantine and isolation can be effective in controlling outbreaks of contagious diseases; these steps could be taken if necessary to protect the public's health.

*18. How prepared is Kansas for a smallpox case or outbreak?*

Kansas has a strong public health system comprised of local public health departments, epidemiologists (disease detectives), laboratories, physicians, etc. In addition, Kansas has a well-developed and tested emergency response plan. Preparation for bioterrorism is a continuing process. We currently are planning and will continue to plan for bioterrorism response in Kansas.